REMARKS

Claims 1 – 133 were pending in the application.

In his Office Action of June 23, 2006, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-133 on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 85-106 of commonly owned co-pending patent application No. 09/641,973 to Gal BEN-DAVID et al.

Additionally, the Examiner rejected the claims of present the patent application as follows:

1. Claims 1-26, 28-37, 39-49, 51-72, 74-96, 98, 100-121, 123-132 as anticipated by Weinberg (US 6,628,984).

2. Claims 27, 38, 50, 73, 122 and 133 as obvious over Weinberg, in view of Wainer et al (5,871,013).

3. Claims 97 and 99 as obvious over Weinberg, in view of Barrick et al (US 2002/0087101).

Respectfully, the Examiner's rejections have been reviewed and are traveresed. Yet in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended the claims, as described in the amendment to the claims, hereinwith.

Double Patenting Rejection

In order to overcome the double patenting rejection, a terminal disclaimer is submitted hereinwith.

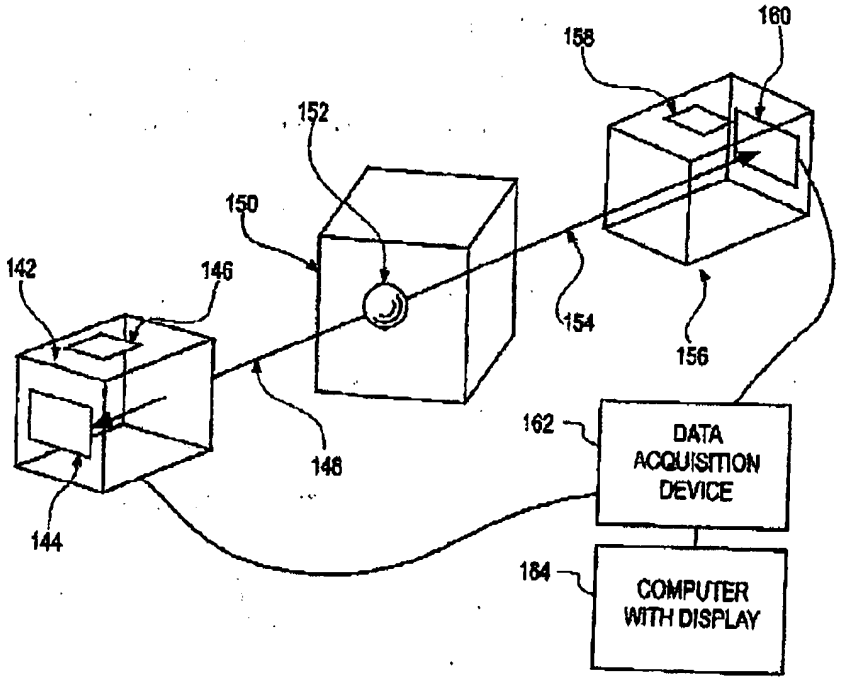
Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102b
as anticipated by Weinberg (US Patent 6,628,984)

Respectully, US Patent 6,628,984 to Weinberg, "Hand held camera with tomographic capability," describes a tomographic imaging system which includes a moveable detector or detectors capable of detecting gamma radiation; one or more position sensors for determining the position and angulation of the detector(s) in relation to a gamma ray emitting source; and a computational device for integrating the position and angulation of the detector(s) with information as to the energy and distribution of gamma rays detected by the detector and deriving a three dimensional representation of the source based on the integration. A method of imaging a radiation emitting lesion located in a volume of interest also is disclosed.

In his Figure 9, reproduced hereinbelow, Weinberg describes a system of multiple cameras, however, the multiple cameras are not physically connected to each other. Rather, lines148 and 154 shown in the figure, represent gamma rays, as indicated in his text in Column 10, lines 19 – 20, as follows:

"The camera detects omitted conicidence or prompt gamma rays 148 and 154."

FIG. 9



Respectfully, the examiner has erred in stating that in his Figure 9, Weinberg describes a flexible connection between the cameras.

In contrast, the present invention, as claimed in system claim 1 (and corresponding method claim 5) relates to:

"1. (Currently Amended) A system for radioactive emission imaging after an administration of a radiopharmaceutical, by calculating a position of a radioactivity emitting source in an overall system-of-coordinates, the system comprising:

(a) a first radioactive emission detector;

(b) a first position tracking system, associated with said first radioactive emission detector, and operative in a first system-of-coordinates;

(c) at least a second radioactive emission detector, physically connected to said first radioactive emission detector, by a flexible connector;

(d) at least a second position tracking system, associated with said at least second radioactive emission detector, and operative in at least a second system-of-coordinates;

(e) a data processor being designed and configured for receiving data inputs from said position tracking systems and from said radioactive emission detectors and for calculating the position of the radioactivity emitting source in the overall system-of-coordinates,

wherein said first and at least second radioactive emission detectors are configured for scanning a three dimensional surface, while following contours of said three dimensional surface."

Wherein, as further described in dependent system claim 146 (and corresponding dependent method claim 147), the flexible connector is as follows:

"146. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said flexible connector is selected from the group consisting of a cable, a hinge, a system of arms and hinges, and a combination thereof."

The importance of the flexible connector of the present invention is in creating a single manueverable radioactive emission camera, from a plurality of independently moving radioactive emission detectors, in contrast to Weinberg who employs several independent cameras.

It is thus maintained that system claim 1, and corresponding method claim 5 are novel and unobvious over US Patent 6,628,984 to Weinberg.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103a
as obvious over Weinberg, in view of Wainer et al (5,871,013) and
as obvious over Weinberg, in view of Barrick et al (US 2002/0087101)

The remaining claims in the present application are dependent on either system claim 1 or method claim 5, and are deemed patentable, since they include all the limitaions of either claim 1 or claim 5, discussed hereinabove.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are patentable, and the application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable decision is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 26, 2006

Encl.:
Petition for Extension of Time
Terminal Disclaimer